



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 18.8 Thursday, February 23, 2012

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

Elwell Elem. slated for wrecking ball, Haggerty for mothballs

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The closing and demolition of Elwell Elementary School and the closing and mothballing of Haggerty Elementary are two of the recommendations that are sure to be approved by the School Board at next Monday's meeting.

The 7 p.m. board meeting on Feb. 27 will be held at the Belleville High School Auditorium, which seats 800, so there will be enough space for all the parents and staff who may show up to hear the board's decision.

At last Monday's special meeting and workshop, the School Board was given a preview of what consultant Paul Wills will present at the upcoming meeting.

There are several choices, but the board and School Supt. Michael Van Tassel favored option #1, which includes:

- Reducing number of elementary schools by two: Elwell and Haggerty to be closed and Elwell demolished;
- Reconfigure grade levels to K-4 in the four remaining elementary schools, 5-6 at South Middle School, 7-8 at North Middle School, and continue 9-12 at BHS.

The district is striving for 85% utilization of the facilities, as requested by the state, and closing the two schools will bring them closer to that goal.

Elwell was constructed in the early '50s and is still on a septic field, which is failing. To hook it up to the sewer and bring the building up to standards would be costly. Demolishing the building will involve a one-time cost of about \$200,000, which can be paid with the available sinking fund.

Having the building gone will save about \$450,000 a year, Van Tassel said.

Closing Haggerty for next school year will save between \$400,000 and \$500,000, Van Tassel said. Then, the Early Childhood Development Center or other programs could be put into Haggerty the following

school year.

Board President Martha Toth noted with fewer grades in fewer schools, split grades could be eliminated.

Van Tassel has a redistricting plan, still in the draft stage, that would place students back in their neighborhood school and could eliminate splits. Class size could be reduced to 17- 22, or less in the early grades.

Van Tassel said every student's family will be contacted in March to let them know what's happening at their school.

With the reconfiguring of the grades and redistricting of students, the district will be able to run just two school bus tiers: one that will get BHS and North Middle School (grades 7-8) to school by an 8 a.m. starting time and the other to get the K-4 elementary students and South Middle School students (5-6) to school for about a 9 a.m. starting time.

Van Tassel said the district will seek bids from day care providers to have child care before and after school at no cost to the school.

The Boys and Girls Club, based at Edgemont Elementary, is out of money and if they don't get an influx of funds soon, there will be no Boys and Girls Club next fall, Van Tassel said.

After going through the details of the changes, Van Tassel said, "This will be the recommendation from Paul Wills next week and I concur."

"Will it come for a vote?" Treasurer Toni Hunt asked and President Toth said, "Yes."

At a recent meeting Trustee Scott Russell had urged the board not to make a hasty decision on the changes, but Russell was not at Monday's meeting.

"Even if we just break even, it's best for kids," Van Tassel said of the proposed changes. He added that the district will

(continued on page 17)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

On Monday, Jon Bane, 10, presented a check for \$900 to Helen Louise Fincher at her Bladez hair salon in Belleville and then took a tour of the old school bus that was warming up behind the shop before leaving to carry food and clothing to the homeless in Detroit's Cass Corridor. This is the third year that Jon has earned money for the mission to the homeless. In 2010 he brought a check for \$237, the exact amount Fincher needed to pay the insurance due on her bus. In 2011, Jon earned \$352 for the homeless mission. Just before last Christmas, Jon had a big bake sale at Open Arms Lutheran Church and took freewill donations. The total was matched by Thrivent Financial. Belleville Church of God gave Fincher the newer bus for her mission. Besides all the other food for the homeless, on Monday Fincher carried a big box of paczkis donated by The Bake Shoppe in Sumpter Township. The shop regularly donates donuts for the mission, Fincher said. Warming up the bus was the mission's mechanic Tom Buczkowski. Kara Garcia from Open Arms faithfully sorts the donations that arrive at Bladez each month and arranges them by sizes for the distribution on the third Monday of each month. Jon is the son of Jason and Laura Bane of Westland and the family attends Open Arms church.

Belleville Fire Chief resigns, alleges 'improprieties' in city

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Friday at 3 p.m., Lee Grant resigned from his position as fire chief of the City of Belleville. His son, Fire Lt. Ken Grant, also resigned.

This leaves nine members of the paid-per-call city fire department, which now is being headed by Interim Fire Chief Brian Loranger, a 23-year veteran of the department.

The brief letter of "involuntary resignation" to City Manager Diana Kollmeyer, dated

Feb. 17, was sent by Grant's attorney Scott E. Combs.

"I left on my own terms," Grant said.

In the letter of resignation, attorney Combs wrote, "It has unfortunately become clear to us that Mr. Grant cannot acquiesce in the improprieties and inappropriate actions taking place in the City.

"Therefore, Mr. Grant thanks the City for time spent, but is forced to resign and pursue other interests immediately.

"He will pick up and remove all his

(continued on page 19)

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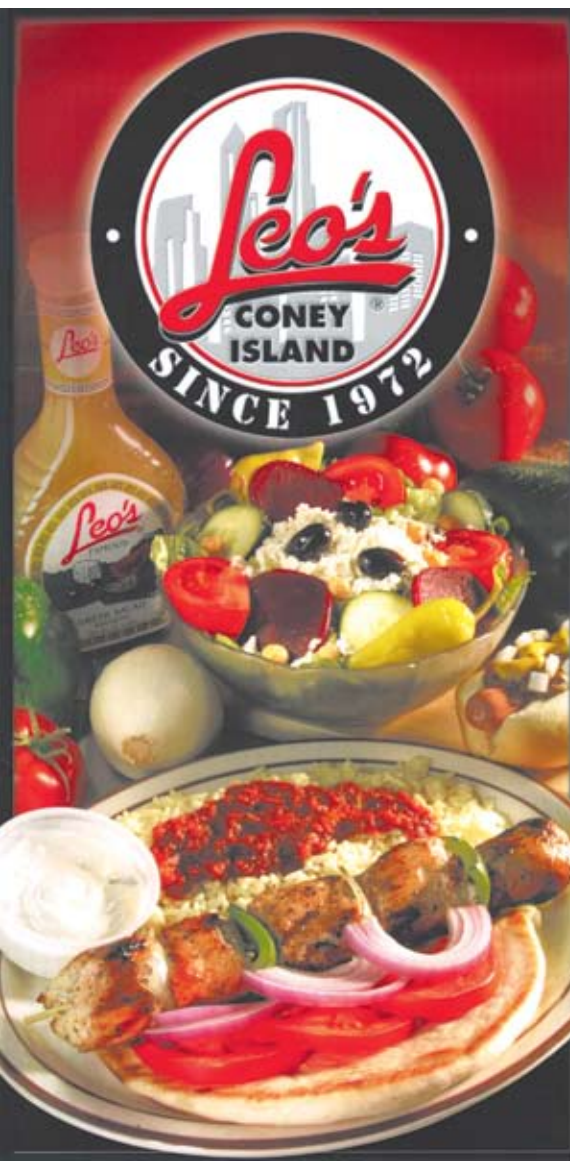
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

District Library Board asks City Council to donate properties

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a closed-door session at the end of its agenda on Feb. 14, the Belleville Area District Library Board voted unanimously to ask the Belleville City Council to donate the present library site and the municipal parking lot across Fourth Street to the library for potential use as a library site in downtown Belleville.

Library attorney John Day, who also is attorney for the City of Belleville, attended the closed session, but then left the board members on their own to phrase the request to the city in open session.

Day said there was a conflict of interest for him, so he left the meeting.

Attorney George Chedraue, attending as a member of the audience, offered guidance to the board members in the wording of the letter.

(Later the request was put on the Feb. 21 agenda of the City Council.)

But, as the board appeared to be considering a downtown site, board members pushed forward on their favored site, the Department of Natural Resources property north of the Belleville Bridge.

Earlier in the meeting, the board voted unanimously to hire an appraiser for the DNR property at a cost not to exceed \$4,000 and let Day decide which appraiser to hire with input from Board Chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson.

Day explained that negotiations and discussions on the property are continuing with the DNR. Now, the DNR is requiring an appraisal on the property that must meet its appraisal standards.

Day said the DNR provided a short list of appraisers who are familiar with the standards and he contacted all five and received proposals from four, ranging from \$2,520 for the DNR property alone and \$1,800 for the house next door, to \$4,800 for the DNR property alone.

Day said, "What we're trying to do is get the DNR property removed from a DNR [Recreational] Trust" designation in order to be used for the library site.

He added that there could be a joint development of the property and whether the DNR buys it or the library buys it, an appraisal is needed.

Barbara Rogalle Miller asked from the audience if there would be any easements on the DNR property for fishing and if the library is looking at getting the house property for a swap with the DNR.

Day said the swap was a possibility.

"The house might be part of the negotiations and might be used as part of consideration for removing from the trust," Day said. "Or, could be used for parking. We haven't received the details for development or how titles are going to be held because we first have to get it out

Feb. 15, 2012

Dear Council Members,

The Library is trying to find a site for a new building. The Board has confined its search to an area, as required by the District Library Agreement. This area includes the Downtown area of Belleville. Our Planners tell us we are in need of a site approximately three acres or greater. There are very few vacant sites in Belleville of that size. Acquiring property and demolishing buildings is an expensive process. We are mindful of the expense to taxpayers in building a new facility and are trying to hold down our costs to the taxpayers as much as possible.

We understand that both, the City Council and the Downtown Development Authority have passed Resolutions requesting that the Library remain Downtown. The Library Board is aware of its presence and impact in the Downtown and its businesses. The Board believes that it may be feasible to remain in the Downtown area if the city would allow the Library to continue the use of the existing site for Library purposes as well as the Municipal Parking Lot on 4th Street.

As you may recall, the City acquired this property as a gift for library purposes, many years ago. This history caused considerable controversy over the ownership of the Library property during negotiations for the District Library Agreement. Given that the majority of the District Library

of the trust.

"The reason the house is an issue is, if we were to use the house for consideration of a swapped property, it is what the DNR trust would accept as fair market value for their appraisal standards for the house property.

"The appraisal we have now [for the house] is for real estate purposes, but I'm not sure that is going to meet the State's requirement. The trust might want that reappraised," Day said.

Members of the audience asked about the appraisals the library paid for on other properties and Day replied that the appraisals will be make public after the site decision is made.

Board treasurer Elaine Gutierrez pointed out that usually an appraisal for residential property will last for six months. She had concerns about making an expenditure when the board doesn't have the time to make a decision.

"If we don't do it this year, are we going to need a new appraisal?" she asked.

"We are in a unique position that we won't have any money until we get a millage," Day replied. "We can't go ask for a millage until we know where we're going to build and how much it's going to cost when we get there.

voters reside in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships, and contributed significant sums to the facility currently located on the existing Library site, we believe it would be very difficult for them to be required to purchase that facility for redevelopment.

It is for these reasons that we are asking the City Council to pass a Resolution authorizing the Library to continue to use its existing site and the Municipal Parking Lot on 4th Street for Library purposes without additional costs to the District Library or the taxpayers of the three Communities.

Respectfully requested,

Mary Jane Dawson, Chair

Belleville Area District Library Board

Editor's Note: At its Feb. 14 meeting, the Belleville Area District Library Board held a closed-door session with attorney John Day and when the board went back into open session, Day left, explaining that it would be a conflict of interest for him to be involved in writing the letter to the city council, since he also serves as city attorney. A memo to the council explained: *"Motion by Christina Brasil, seconded by Joe Monte to request that the City Council place on the agenda of the Tuesday, Feb. 21st meeting a request that the city donate the 167 Fourth St. and the 4th St. Municipal parking lot properties for potential future library purposes. Motion carried unanimously."*

"How do we go and say, 'I might want to buy your property someday in a year from now and you have to agree to this price and maybe in a year I'm going to tell you I'm not going to buy it.'"

Day said everyone on the state level loves the idea of a library on the DNR site, but it's never been done before and an appraisal has to be done before they start the process.

Day said it could be 10 months before the state makes a decision. The appraisal is estimated to take from 30 to 45 days.

Miller pointed out there is now open discussion on the DNR property, so, "Why didn't we have open discussion on the Davenport property? Why were we excluded from the Davenport property discussion?"

She referred to the proposal by Davenport Brothers to use their Amerman Lumber Yard site for the new library, but the presentation and discussion was held in closed-door session.

"I think they wanted it closed," said Board member Michael Boelter, with Board member John Juriga adding the size and shape wasn't right.

Library Director Deb Green said, "Everything is taking longer than we

thought," as the board launched into a discussion on the Timing for the Ballot Proposal.

Vice Chairman Christina Brasil said the board learned how to do ballot proposals at a training session and she checked with the Van Buren Township Clerk's office, who reported there is expected be a two-sided ballot in November, with the state putting on 10 to 12 proposals of its own.

Boelter noted the year is almost into March and he didn't think the board would be ready by the August deadline for the November election. He proposed putting off the decision until April and after more discussion the board voted unanimously to table the timing for the ballot proposal until the April meeting.

Board member Joe Monte said the bond proposal could be put on the February 2013 election.

"I wish we could have it together for August," Green said.

"It's beyond our control," said Brasil. "I would hate to make a foolish decision."

After the vote to postpone the decision, Gutierrez said, "I'm a little less stressed knowing we don't have to get ready for the November ballot."

In other business at the Feb. 14 meeting, the board:

- Heard Kevin Robinson discuss the size of the proposed library, urging them to build a reasonable size that the taxpayers will support. He said, "Our tax base is dwindling, foreclosures are increasing and people are leaving." He said he is convinced with the direction the area is heading, they'll have the same library and by the time his kids are of age, they won't even need a library anymore and this library will still be in the same building in the same location at the same size;

- Heard an unidentified man say he thinks the library board "is doing a hell of a job" and if the community is going to sabotage the whole thing by asking about location, "We're never going to have anything, anyway." He said the economy is not going to stay this way and you have to look to the future. "I don't live in Canton, but I'd like to see something like Canton [library]," he said;

- Heard CPA Ron Trakos report on the district library finances, noting by the end of March the municipalities will be able to tell them how much tax revenue to expect;

- Heard Mike Renaud ask if the costs associated with a new building are in a separate account. Traskos said not yet, but he hopes to have a resolution at the next board meeting to account for the architectural fees, legal fees, planning fees to have a side accounting in the budget that will keep a tab going and when they do the bond issue they will roll in those fees.

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O P I N I O N S

Editorial EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

City Council asks for information meeting on library plans

The Belleville City Council wants to get more information on what the District Library Board is planning before considering giving away any property owned by city residents. (See story on Page 3)

At Tuesday's council meeting, library board chairman Mary Jane Dawson challenged the council with: "You said you wanted to keep the library downtown. The library board wants to know what you'll do to keep it downtown."

The request for the library property and the municipal parking lot was tabled by the council until a meeting could be set up by the library with the city council to present library plans and answer council questions.

And, Councilman Tom Smith wants to hear what city residents think about giving their property to the library. He urged the library board to set up the meeting as soon as possible.

Library Board member John Juriga said, "The thing stopping this now is parking." But, Library Board Chairman Mary Jane Dawson stated flatly, "That wasn't an issue."

Belleville Planning Commission chairman Steve Jones said the information put on the library website recently calls for 49,000 square feet for two buildings. There are a lot of questions about what will be in those buildings, wherever they will be – and if voters approve the funds to build them. A public meeting to answer questions is a great idea.

There were 27 Polar Plunges planned throughout Michigan from January through March 2012, including the one at the Belleville Moose last week. The plunges brought donations for Special Olympics Michigan and the Belleville Plunge reportedly brought in \$34,000.

Today, in Lansing, Michigan State Representatives are doing their own Polar Plunge on the Capitol lawn in the first-annual Legislative Polar Plunge.

Besides 36 State Reps., Senator Rick Jones of Grand Ledge and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley are taking part. The last time I looked, State Rep. Dian Slavens (who represents Belleville and VBT), State Rep. Pat Somerville (who represents Sumpter), and State Senator Pat Colbeck, who represents the tri-community, weren't on the list to jump.

I'm with them. I'd rather give a donation than jump in frigid waters. I've got to hand it to those who freeze their butts off for charity.

Special Olympics Michigan provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for 21,754 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Polar Plunges are usually sponsored by the law enforcement community.

This is a reminder that all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies this month and you will start to receive sales calls. You will be charged for these calls.

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block your number for five years. You must call from the cell phone number you want blocked and cannot call from a different phone number.

You can also use this number on your land line.

A report published in annarbor.com this week said Linda Edwards, 41, the panhandler who lived at Super 8 motel on the South I-94 Service Drive and was featured on WXYZ-TV recently, received \$7,000 in donations and a used van after people saw her on TV.

The report said she lost her job at Walmart because she didn't have a babysitter for her six-year-old daughter when school wasn't in session. Then, she was evicted from her Belleville apartment and her car was repossessed. Her daughter attends the Van Buren Public schools and sometimes goes begging with her mother at the Rawsonville Road ramp at I-94.

Edwards gets food assistance from the state and used to get \$200 twice a month from Family Independence Agency, but couldn't participate in the Work First program because she had no transportation.

Things should be turning around for her.

Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley is one of the six Wayne County appointees who filed a breach of contract suit Friday against County Executive Robert Ficano and the county.

Media reports say the appointees are suing to get their complete severance packages that were promised them, but rescinded by Ficano in October after the Turkia Mullen fiasco.

Had the six retired last year they would have been able to collect much more than they will be able to now. Some said they only stayed working to do Ficano a favor and now are getting cheated out of a lot of perks.

Conley is the county's Facilities Management Director. Others suing are former Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe, who was an assistant CEO; James Buford, Homeland Security Director; Hassan Saab, Department of Public Services Director; Keith Lee, Equipment Division Manager; and Leonard Dixon, Juvenile Detention Facility Manager.

Ficano has said he will let the court decide the issue.

On Tuesday morning, when I wasn't looking, we got some snowflakes. I heard the results on the police scanner, however, as report after report of people in ditches and knocking down light poles and bumping into each other kept the police hopping.

By the time I went home for lunch to let the dogs out, it was 38 degrees, with melting snow everywhere.



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Letters

Thanks to all who helped with fund raiser

To the Editor:

The Gentz Family would like to thank everyone who came to the spaghetti dinner on Jan. 8, 2012. Thank you to those who came to support us and to those who did not make it to the dinner but sent a donation anyway.

Thank you to everyone who donated a gift or made a gift for one of the auctions. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Eagles Club for allowing us to use your facility, and a special thank you to Aunt Joyce and Aunt Debi for putting everything together. We love you both very much!

We also would like to thank everyone at River of Life Assembly of God for all of the wonderful gifts and everyone at A2 Auto Glass for the gift card. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated during the Christmas season.

And one last special thank you to all of the wonderful staff at Bethany Daycare and everyone at Bethany church. The generosity and support you have shown during these last several months has helped us so very much. I am so glad that there are wonderful, generous people in the world like all of you.

Thanks again to everyone and God Bless!
The Gentz Family

Lt. Col. Milton L. Riggs, Jr., USAF (Ret.) was special YAF friend

Dear Yankee Air Force friends,

Just heard some sad news that Milt Riggs died at noontime, Thursday 2/16/2012. He was Yankee Life member #181.

In March 2003, he did a great program in the old hangar, displaying & describing many of his Korean War & Air National Guard photos & memorabilia. He also helped Bette Watson with many school visits, even playing a ukulele for the students.

In reviewing his flight logs, Milt determined he made at least 20 flights in the RF-84F Thunderflash #52-7421 displayed in Yankee Air Museum's airpark. He served in the US Air Force from 1951-1955 and the Michigan Air National Guard until his retirement in 1976.

He completed US Air Force pilot training in May 1952, receiving his wings & 2nd Lieutenant commission, then completed the USAF Fighter Gunnery course & in December 1952 was sent to Korea.

As a member of the 69th Fighter Bomber Squadron, he flew 99 combat missions in F-84Gs, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

When Korean hostilities ended, Lt. Riggs returned to the US and served as an interceptor pilot. Flying the F-86F Sabrejet with Air Defense Command, he conducted intercepts on unidentified aircraft, many being Strategic Air Command B-36s, B-47s and B-52s.

Following his release from the USAF in 1955, he joined the Michigan Air National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1976.

In civilian life, Milt Riggs was an elementary school teacher and an Ann Arbor school principal. Also, for 17 years he flew a Sabreliner as a corporate pilot.

Milt & his wife Pegi were active in "Pet-A-Pet," a group which took their own dogs, cats & pettable pets to visit shut-ins.


There was a memorial service on Monday, 2/20/2012 at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Boston.

Love,
Mary Ann Bittner
Belleville



*"A discussion is an exchange of knowledge;
an argument is an exchange of ignorance"*

--Robert Quillen



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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

We need your support for Elwell carnival

To the Editor, Business Owners and Community:

In support of the annual carnival at Elwell Elementary School, Elwell PTO members would like to ask you for a small donation, either product, service, or monetary, for raffle prizes. This event will be held on Friday, March 23, and this year's theme is "Out of this World". The proceeds from the event support various activities that enrich our students' lives, such as visits by outside educational programs, book purchases, and supplemental funding for field trips.

These activities are essential to the development of well-rounded and informed children and help foster a greater understanding of the world in which they live that cannot be achieved by just the State of Michigan approved curriculum.

This is our largest fund raiser of the school year and a great way to get your company's name to the public. Your support will help this event become a wonderful success.

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact the school at (734) 697-8277 to leave a message for the PTO Board members, Dawn Adams or Julie Kissel. Please mail any monetary donations directly to the school address: 17601 Elwell Road, Belleville 48111.

Thank you so much for any support,

Elwell Elementary PTO

Our children will never pay off the \$16 trillion

To the Editor:

Once again our great President has solved a problem he created – the Catholic Church for moral and conscience reasons does not want to supply insurance to cover abortions or birth control. Like magic, it will be supplied FREE by the insurance companies. Never mind the moral objections of the church. This man apparently doesn't understand moral objections.

He has found a way to make most things FREE. How about free hamburgers from McDonald's for the hungry? Oh, I forgot. Too much trans fat. How about a free car from GM for those that need one? A Chevy Volt will do just fine. They can't sell them, anyway.

This President has made so many things free for us that our children and grandchildren and the unborn will never get the \$16 trillion paid off. If you want to see what's ahead for you and your offspring, look at Greece.

Thank you, Mr. Obama. I'll be sure to remember all you've done TO this country next November.

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Obituaries



John Michael Curtis

JOHN MICHAEL CURTIS

(April 20, 1947 - February 16, 2012)

John Michael "Big John" Curtis, age 64, was born in Ypsilanti, MI on April 20, 1947 and passed away at Arbor Hospice, Feb. 16, 2012.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, one sister, a niece, and his beloved dog and best friend Buttons.

He is survived by three sisters, June (Bill) Aman of Manchester, MI, Cora (Gerald) Woodruff of Brooklyn, MI, Pat Wilson of Belleville, MI; and one brother Henry (Jackie) Curtis of Farwell, MI; several nieces, nephews, great nieces, nephews, and great-great-nephews.

He worked at Michigan Tube Benders and MAPCO Manufacturing before retiring.

Arrangements by Generations. Cremation has taken place. Graveside services to be held at Union-Udell Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI, Friday, February 24, at 11:30 a.m. with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating.

Donations in his memory can be made to Arbor Hospice.

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Jacquelyn Elizabeth Harris

JACQUELYN ELIZABETH HARRIS

(June 14, 1945 - February 12, 2012)

Jacquelyn Elizabeth "Jackie" Harris, age 66, of Belleville and formerly of Clark Lake, MI, died unexpectedly Sunday, February 12, 2012 at home.

She was born June 14, 1945 in Louisville, KY, the daughter of Geneva (Mason) Wills, who preceded her in death. On April 3, 1965, she married Raymond E. Harris in Britton, MI and he survives.

Jackie was a member of Faithway Baptist Church. She was a wonderful homemaker and loving wife, mother and grandmother.

In addition to her husband, Raymond, of almost 47 years, survivors include: six children, Raymond (Gidget) Harris II of Radisson, WI, Robert Harris of Ypsilanti, Jody (John) Newman of Helena, AL, Jon (Nisha) Harris of Andahuaylas, Peru, Rory (Lois) Harris of Ypsilanti and Renee (Corey) Tahtinen of Indianapolis, IN; 23 grandchildren; one sister Rebecca (David) Schuler of Jackson, MI; two nephews and one niece.

The funeral service was held February 17, 2012 at Faithway Baptist Church. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. Contributions in her memory may be made to Faithway Baptist Church. Please sign her guestbook at www.starkfuneral.com.



Milton Riggs

MILTON L. RIGGS, JR.

Milton L. Riggs, Jr., age 83, passed away February 16, 2012 surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Pegi (Marjorie) for 56 years. Dear father of Bonnie (Richard) Fix, Jeffrey, Stephen (Kimberleigh) and Robin (Gary) La Tourette. Loving grandfather of his cherished Mariah. Brother of Millicent and the late Marian. Also survived by 11 nieces, nephews and their families, and countless wonderful friends.

Milton spent 25 years as a USAF officer and fighter pilot, 22 years in the MI Air National Guard, 17 years as a corporate jet pilot. For 30 years he was a licensed real estate broker. He retired in 1988 after spending 9 years as a public school teacher and 20 years as a public school principal, first at Lincoln Upper Elementary, and then 17 years at Eberwhite Elementary School in Ann Arbor. He had a major influence on the lives of so many students, some of whom re-connected with him many years after graduation.

Milt was a man of varied interests and touched many people's lives. He enjoyed furniture and jewelry making, woodworking, and tinkering with anything mechanical -- he could repair anything around the house. Music was a huge part of Milt's life. He played piano by ear, harmonica and to the enjoyment of so many groups of friends, the ukulele. Not a day went by without his listening to or whistling baroque and classical music -- sometimes much to the embarrassment of his children.

Milt and Pegi loved to travel and after his retirement they made several international trips and took a number of cruises.

Milt and Pegi's home was always filled with rescued animals -- both cats and dogs. Both were members of Pet-A-Pet and often took their two cats and two dogs to retirement/nursing facilities, etc. and other pet oriented activities. Milton felt he was, in his word, "Blessed with a very full and happy life, if not a longer one."

Memorial services were held Monday, February 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston,

MI 48164.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions would be appreciated, and may be made to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 274, New Boston, MI 48164 or Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc. c/o Linda McCalister, P.O. Box 530356, Livonia, MI 48153.

Please share a memory by signing Milt's guestbook at cremationmichigan.com.



Eulis Disney

EULIS DISNEY

(July 10, 1928 - January 29, 2012)

Eulis Disney, age 83, of Belleville, MI, formerly of Detroit, MI, passed away Sunday, January 29, 2012 at his home. He was born July 10, 1928 in Lionfort, Kentucky, son of the late Ben & Matilda (Dove) Disney.

Eulis served his country in the U.S. Army. He retired from General Motors where he was an Auditor for many years. He enjoyed farming for most of his life and loved to work on cars. Most important to him was his family and having Sunday dinners at his home for 20 people or more each week.

He is survived by five children Barbara Farris of Mississippi, Jeanie (Joseph) McBride of Belleville, MI, Wanda (David) Coursey of Howell, MI, Bennie (Michelle) Disney and Melanie (Daniel) Henry, both of Belleville, 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, two sisters Betty (John) Johnson of Dearborn Heights, MI and Bonnie Adkins of Flat Rock, MI, three brothers Sam Disney of Romulus, MI, David (Linda) Disney of Belleville and Roger (Mary) Disney of Taylor, MI, also numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Marie (Pagett) Disney in 1973, also eight siblings.

Services were held February 2, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Interment was in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, MI.

Memorial contributions to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Foundation or VFW Post #4434 would be appreciated by the family.

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Obituaries



Michael Kailimai

MICHAEL H. KAILIMAI

(February 5, 1962 - February 15, 2012)

Michael Henry Kailimai, age 50, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born February 5, 1962 in Dearborn, MI, son of Henry Carter & R. Laverne (Wilson) Kailimai. He was an extremely talented Sheet Metal worker and member of Local #292. He enjoyed playing pool and cards, bowling, and loved darts. He also loved taking the kids to the Roller Rink.

Mike is survived by his wife of over 31 years, Frances Marie (Bober) Kailimai; two daughters Michelle (Bobby) White of Harrison, Arkansas and Tabatha (Jon) Bitner of Westland, MI; a son Andrew Kailimai of Belleville, MI; two grandsons Carter & Ethan Bitner; his mother Laverne Kailimai of Belleville; three brothers Martin (Debbie Gray) Kailimai of Sumpter Township, MI, Mitchell & Mark Kailimai, both of Augusta, MI; God Son Jared Tabor of Romulus, MI; three nieces Vanessa McKenzie, AnnMarie (Jason) Baker and Jessica Bartholomew; also two nephews Spencer McKenzie and Kenny (Denise) Bartholomew. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, also his father, Henry C. Kailimai on April 18, 2004.

A gathering will be held Friday, February 24, 2012 from Noon-4 PM with a 4:00 PM Memorial Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Mr. Kailimai wished for no flowers, instead, Memorial contributions to National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter, would greatly be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Mary Wojciechowski

MARY WOJCIECHOSKI

Mary Wojciechowski age 51 was called to heaven on February 18, 2012 to be with her mother Ann Priebe and sister Shirley Cichon (Priebe). Mary is survived by her husband Danny Wojciechowski; her brothers Joe Priebe, Richard and Dian Priebe; three sons Joe Sawyer, Danny Wojciechowski II, and Benjamin Wojciechowski; two daughters Candy Wojciechowski and Ronda Morgan; daughter-in-law Jennifer Dye; five grandkids Kristina, Samara, and Austin Morgan, Alissa and Lucas Fry; and all the other wonderful people she had touched with her kindness and love in her great life. A memorial service will be held at the Belleville Moose Lodge at 1 p.m. Sunday, February 26 for friends and family.



Evelyn Gay Kapanowski

EVELYN G. KAPANOWSKI

(September 15, 1919 - February 14, 2012)

Evelyn Gay Kapanowski, age 92, long-time resident of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at Superior Woods Healthcare Center, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born September 15, 1919 in Samantha, Alabama, daughter of the late John & Minnie (Luncford) Alexander. She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. She loved being a coordinator for the Wayne County Office of Aging for many years and supported numerous senior citizens until she was 87 years old. She enjoyed going out to eat, gardening, cross word puzzles and was an avid reader. She also loved all animals.

Evelyn is survived by a daughter Donna Gay Sierota of Belleville; three grandchildren Valerie (Mike) Papin of Whitmore Lake, MI, Karen (Kevin) Gruse of South Lyon, MI and Terri (Dennis) Brooks of Belleville; 8 great-grandchildren; a sister Olivia Adams of Atlanta, Georgia; numerous nieces and nephews, also her beloved dog, Lucy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband William Martin Kapanowski in 1976, a son-in-law Dr. Ronald Sierota, also seven brothers and sisters.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Thursday, February 16, 2012 with an 11 AM Funeral Friday, February 17, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Deacon Peter Cornell and Rev. Mary Hoff co-officiated. Interment was in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, MI

Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane Society or Superior Woods and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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Catherine Caldwell

CATHERINE E. CALDWELL

(May 22, 1947 - February 20, 2012)

Catherine Elizabeth Caldwell, age 64, of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, February 20, 2012 at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born May 22, 1947 in Mercer, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Harold C. & Eunice (McMillan) North.

In 1968, she earned her nursing degree from the Jameson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Catherine worked at the old and new Beyer Hospitals in Ypsilanti, Michigan until she retired after many years of loyal service to her patients. She loved and adored her grandchildren, friends and her church. She was a member of Belleville First United Methodist Church where she was involved as an active volunteer and with the FUMC Food Closet. She also had a love for music and traveling. Cathy was a strong woman who battled breast cancer for over 16 years.

Mrs. Caldwell is survived by her husband of 43 years, Gerald; a daughter Jennifer (Marc) Liskey of South Lyon, MI; a son Mark (Rebecca) Caldwell of Trenton, MI; five grandchildren: Anne, Sarah, Andrew, Mitchell and Claire; a sister Frances (Gary) McClearly of Pennsylvania; also numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visitation was 5-8 PM Wednesday and 2-4 PM & 6-8 PM Thursday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. A Funeral Service will be held 11:00 AM Friday, February 24, 2012 at the First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, with Rev. Jim Walker officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made in Catherine's honor to the First United Methodist Church-Food Closet, or the Susan G. Komen Foundation and would be greatly appreciated by her family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

KATRINA EPPIE SEAMAN

(June 2, 1959 - February 16, 2012)

Age 52, life-long Ypsilanti resident. Survived by daughters Sabrina and Tonya, sons Keith, Joseph and Roger, companion Larry Boyer, 3 brothers, 2 sisters. Services 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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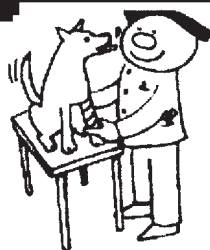
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Justin Forster named to Academic Honors List at Spring Arbor University

Spring Arbor University announces that Justin Forster was named to the fall 2011 Academic Honors List.

Forster of Belleville is a senior majoring in Accounting CPA. He is the son of Scott and Suzanne Forster

The Academic Honors List recognizes full-time students who have received a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for the semester. Part-time students must receive a 3.7 GPA for the semester and carry a cumulative 3.7 GPA.

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Lt. Col. Milton Riggs gets his 100th mission

Editor's Note: *The following remarks were given by Cornell Anton at Monday's Memorial Service for Milton Riggs:*

We so often look upon the ribbons and medals worn by servicemen as just so much color, or as we "old timers" sometimes refer to them as "salad." However, when looked at closely we find that that person's military history is on their chest. Worn with pride it tells where they have been, what they have done, and honors they have had bestowed upon them.

Such is the case with Milton Riggs whose Senior Pilot Wings and medals tell us he served with the United Nations Forces in Korea in defense of the United States of America.

His ability as a fighter pilot earned him three Air Medals that are "...made to recognize single acts of merit or heroism, or for meritorious service."

He is in some good company with other award holders: Astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Jim Lovell & Gus Grissom; WWII Ace Richard Bong; President George H. W. Bush; General Jimmy Doolittle; General Curtis LeMay; Senator John McCain; Ed McMahon; General Colin Powell; Admiral James Stockdale; and WWII B29 pilot Paul Tibbets (Enola Gay that dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan); just to name a few.

He also is the holder of the Distinguished Flying Medal awarded to someone "...who distinguishes himself in support of operation by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

Yes, upon his chest, Milt wore with pride, as do we all, the story of our journey and the story of our adventures, our trials, and our tribulations. However, just as with us, without bravado or boast. Just for us we can see on their chest that veteran's story.

I wish that I could write a limerick
As Milt could do so quick --
For then I could extol his fetes
His honors so replete.

For one hundred combat missions --
A factor or omission,
He was lacking one we're told -
He begged, expounded, and cajoled,
"Just ONE more before I go!"

Alas and alack it would not be,
Ninety nine missions was his marquee.
Then fifty-eight years later, the call did come,
"A flight or a mission -- I'll take either one!"

Well, Milt, you got your wish.
Moreover, not from a voice so waggish.
However, from the Commander up above.
Yes, you are soaring like a dove,

Up to our Master up in heaven --
Moreover, with a voice so strong we have heard so often,
A voice so filled with priding,
"On mission one hundred, Lt. Col. Riggs reporting!"

In Milt's favorite second language --*Danke. Auf Wiedersehen, mein Kumpel!*



Independent photo by Jim Otzman

The eight benches at Doane's Landing at the entrance to the City of Belleville were purchased by the Belleville Downtown Development Authority for \$650 each in 2005 from Tim and Anna Sharp of Sharpco Anchors of Harrison, MI. DDA member Jim Higgerson found the business on the internet after he admired the nautical benches they made for the Whitmore Lake DDA. Higgerson also chose the designs for the bench backs. Some years, "diapers" have been placed on the wood by volunteers to shield it from winter weather, but not this year.

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Ric Esper took a picture of an eagle soaring over the Wayne County Community College District campus on Haggerty Road at about 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 5. The eagle was perched in a tree close to the drive and Ric was able to get in a few quick pictures with his phone before the eagle soared off. Ric reports that he has seen the eagle several times around the cornfields near WCCCD and every time it takes off, it looks like it's heading to the Wayne/Westland area.

Fernando Fitch, BHS class of '04, completes Navy basic training

Navy Seaman Fernando A. Fitch, a 2004 graduate of Belleville High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych
Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley, City Manager Diana Kollmeyer and all of the City Council members attended last Saturday's ribbon-cutting celebration at the Lunch Box Deli on Main Street in Downtown Belleville. Owner Rodney Herald was blown away by the turnout, and was grateful to host the Mayor and everyone else who came to the ceremony and enjoyed samples of his deli sandwiches, side dishes and specialty cakes. Herald would also like to thank his customers who stopped by, the *Independent* for covering it, and Kay Atkins and Mike Windiate of the Main Street Merchants Association who put on the event.

Ryan Richter named to Dean's List at Hope College in Holland, MI

Ryan J. Richter, son of the Rev. James and Sara Richter of Van Buren Township, has been named to the Dean's List for the first semester of the 2011-12 school year at Hope

College in Holland, MI. Ryan is a senior.

To be named to the Dean's List a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Hope College is a four-year, co-educational, liberal arts college with an enrollment of 3,249 men and women and is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America.



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Janet Pomann and Linda Luke-Neinas read their Independents on Cayo Costa Island, FL. Four couples rented a pontoon boat from Pine Island to navigate their way to a fund day on Cayo Costa. Janet and Linda, both from Belleville, are snowbirds living near each other in the winter in Cape Cora and Ft. Meyers, respectively.

For those who are considering submitting a photo, be advised that your entry will be run when space allows. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before it's printed. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$25 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$30 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

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Belleville, MI**



Independent photo by Jim Otzman

American Fence has replaced most of the teal-colored lakefront fencing with black fencing at Doane's Landing in Belleville, with remaining hillside fencing to be installed in the spring, since concrete work is required to install the posts. Spicer Group engineers recently recommended four additional support braces and one additional fence post to improve the aesthetics. The Belleville Downtown Development Authority approved \$1,600 more for this work. American Fence was the low bidder on the project, at \$27,294.05.

Michigan Presidential Primary election to be held Tuesday, Feb. 28

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Polls will be open in municipalities throughout Michigan from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday, Feb. 28, for the Presidential Primary Election.

Republicans will have 12 names on their ballots, but the field in reality has been cut down to front-runners Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich, and Ron Paul, along with Uncommitted.

Democrats have just Barack Obama and Uncommitted on their printed ballots.

Earlier this year, Democrats were advised by their state leadership not to vote in the Feb. 28 election and, instead, make their preference known in the May 5 caucuses. They said the Feb. 28 votes would not count and voters would not be allowed to vote both in the Feb. 28 election and May 5 caucus.

But, earlier this month, the state Democratic leadership advised voters that they would be allowed to vote in both places, after all, with only the May 5 results being used to determine delegates to the National Democratic Convention in September.

On Tuesday, voters will have to request in writing either a Republican or Democratic ballot. The voter's choice of Republican or Democratic ballot is available to the public under a Freedom of Information Act request.

Belleville City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Long

looked up the Michigan law concerning this: "Personal information which is an unwarranted invasion of privacy is exempt from disclosure.

MCL 15.243(1)(a)"

But, "Information indicating which political party ballot an elector selected at a presidential primary election is not exempt from disclosure under the freedom of information act (FOIA).

MCL 168.615c(3)"



Independent photo by Jim Otzman

On Saturday, the twisted American flag still was in place at the closed Marathon gas station at the corner of Belleville Road and the North I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township. The *Independent* and VBT offices have received complaints about the condition of the flag. VFW member Rick Dawson of Belleville said he talked to the township first, without getting anywhere, and then contacted Marathon Oil's home office in Findlay, Ohio. Dawson said on Friday he received a return call from the district manager who said they, too, have been getting complaints and someone is being hired to take the flag down. The flagpole has internal cables, which thwarted all those who wanted to just cut it down. The flag appeared to be just twisted tight with a broken cable and not tattered. On Monday, Marathon sent out a sign company who removed the flag and turned it over to the Van Buren Township Police Department Honor Guard. Captain Greg Laurain said the flag will be turned over to George Kennedy of the VFW Honor Guard who will see it is disposed of in a dignified way.

Angela Williams, Kai Mason earn degrees at Spring Arbor University

Angela Williams of Belleville received a Master of Arts in Family Studies from Spring Arbor University during commencement exercises Nov. 19.

Kai Mason of Belleville received an Associate of Arts degree at the same ceremony.

Spring Arbor University is a private, four-year, Christian liberal arts university located eight miles west of Jackson. With a total enrollment around 4,200, the University is affiliated with the Free Methodist Church of North America and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

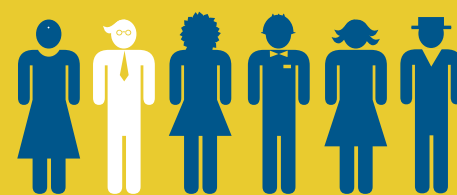
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1 in 10 Americans have a hearing loss.
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Your Business**
with Bob Mytych

Belleville Boy Scouts Troop 793 will be fund raising with fish dinners on Feb. 24, March 2, and March 16, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at **St. Anthony's Church** on Columbia Ave. Call **(734) 260-9662** or **(734) 697-1492** for information.

The **Belleville Fire Department** will be holding a bus trip fundraiser to **Greektown Casino** on Saturday, March 3. Cost is \$40 per person, of which \$20 is free play at the casino. Guests will be picked up at the Chase Bank parking lot at 3:30 p.m. and will return to the same location approximately 10:30 p.m. Travel is by deluxe motor coach and will include a 50/50 drawing, and other prize drawings. Call **(734) 697-9323**. Proceeds will go to the fire department.

Van Buren Eagles on Beck Road is gearing up for its **Blue & Gray Ball** on March 24 starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Everyone who attends is invited to wear a costume or dress in 1860s-1900s clothing. The event is open to the public. Call **(734) 461-2498** or **(734) 699-8836** for information.

The **Belleville Community Chorus** will hold an all-day **Dining to Donate** fund raiser at **Leo's Coney Island** on Belleville Road on Wednesday, Feb. 29. To participate, simply present their fundraiser flyer available to download from the Community Chorus website at www.bellevillechorus.org and 10% of your lunch and dinner check will go to the chorus. Flyers are also available at the *Independent* office at 152 Main Street and Main Street Flowers in Downtown Belleville during regular business hours.

The **Belleville A&W** restaurant near Five Points is now open for the season. Now through March 1, get their all-American Coney for just 99 cents every day. Carry-outs are available too by calling **(734) 699-1800**.

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!**SAM'S BAR****LIVE IN CONCERT!****Hank Grimm****Country/Classic Singer****Saturday, Feb. 25****8pm - 12 Midnight****40675 Bemis @ Savage ~ Sumpter**
(734) 699-8526**Ask
Angela**

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o Belleville-Area Independent, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions each week in this column.

Question from Tyrone of Allen Park: I started a short sale on my home about 4 months ago, and recently it was not approved. Can I start a new short sale with another Realtor and see if I can get a short sale approval?

Answer: If you are no longer listed with the first Realtor, and your home is not foreclosed on, yes, you can initiate a second short sale. You will have to update all your hardship, financial info, with a new listing and offer to be submitted. You should first check with your lender to see why the short sale was not approved so that your new Realtor will be able to understand what the lender is looking for when redoing all the docs and providing a new purchase offer, so this second short sale can be approved.

You should check on the short sale experience of the second Realtor you select. It is also important that you are proactive in the short sale process with your Realtor -- to provide all your updated, required documentation to your Realtor in a complete, timely manner. Good Luck on your second short sale approval.

--Angela

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Email: nettroandco@comcast.net**Belleville Planners
re-elect Jones chairman**

By Bob Mytych

Independent Special Writer

The Belleville Planning Commission, at its Feb. 9 meeting, re-elected Steve Jones chairman and Michael Hawkins, vice-chairman for the coming year.

The commission also accepted the resignation letter of Commissioner Jason Rodriguez, who submitted it to the city earlier in the day. No reasons were stated.

In a brief 30-minute meeting, with only four members present, the commission noted that they will be working with the city's planning consultant Birchler & Arroyo Associates, to review the current sign ordinance and report back to the city.

A subcommittee made up of planners Matthew Wagner, Steve Jones, and Mike Renaud will gather with selected DDA members to further review and make recommendations. The item is expected back on the agenda for an update in March.

When the *Independent* asked if there have been any developments or a new site plan submitted by the Belleville Yacht Club, City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said that there isn't anything new to report at this time.

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Can Drive It In For More \$.****16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan****734-282-1700**

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.
For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, Feb. 12:

0003 – private property accident, 51300 Park Estates Dr.
0509 – fraud, Meijer
0539 – assault & battery, 46121 Village Green Ln.
1227 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell
1244 – felony assault, Walmart
1334 – shots fired, across from Sisco
1605 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Metro Parkway
1753 – assault & battery, 46425 Tyler
1926 – harassment call, 5 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1941 – ATV/ORV complaint, Hannan/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1957 – breaking & entering, 5800 Belleville
2227 – operating while intoxicated, WB I-94 / Haggerty
2353 – operating while intoxicated, EB I-94 / Rawsonville
Monday, Feb. 13:
0524 – assault & battery, 48870 Denton
0757 – malicious destruction of property, 41544 McBride
0957 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Grove
1108 – malicious destruction of property, 9103 Westlake Cir.
1213 – property damage accident, 44850 Ecorse
1417 – private property accident, 287 Industrial
2139 – private property accident, Walmart
2244 – assault & battery, 9248 Parkwood
2313 – assault & battery, 9248 Parkwood

Tuesday, Feb. 14:
0725 – larceny, 41133 Van Born
0928 – fraud, 45455 Ecorse
1149 – disorderly conduct, 10958 Oaklane
1202 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
1254 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Independence
1255 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Independence
1438 – fraud, 45863 Purple Sage Ct.
1528 – property damage accident, Mott/Dellor
1802 – juvenile complaint, 6597 Parkside
1837 – juvenile complaint, 11875 Quirk
2034 – property damage accident, Hull/Hoeft
2038 – larceny, 11511 Belleville
2246 – disorderly conduct, 11511 Belleville
2252 – assault & battery, 17100 Elwell

Wednesday, Feb. 15:
0818 – property damage accident, Martz/Hoeft
0915 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Belleville
1057 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1305 – property damage accident, Belleville / Westlake Cir.
1320 – fraud, 13079 Cumberland Ct.
1602 – fraud, Meijer
1606 – fraud, 51341 W. Huron River Dr.
1641 – mental, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1719 – assault & battery, 13117 Vista Dr.
1858 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
1859 – breaking & entering, 1150 Sumpter
1900 – property damage accident, Rawsonville/W. Huron River Dr.
2005 – fraud, Meijer

Thursday, Feb. 16:
0005 – intimidation threat, 27 Pine
0119 – sexual assault, 9997 Jackson Ln.
0948 – juvenile complaint, 13770 Haggerty
1042 – mental, 48221 Bayshore
1351 – disturbance, 1000 Sumpter
1427 – property damage accident, Ecorse / Belleville
1655 – property damage accident, Denton / Michigan
1726 – fraud, Kmart
1808 – narcotics crime, 45501 N. I-94 Service
1812 – disturbance, 1150 Sumpter
1814 – disturbance, 1150 Sumpter
1851 – disorderly conduct, 7872 Kirkridge Park Dr
1944 – property damage accident, Hannan/S. I-94 Service Dr.

2028 – fraud, Kmart
2308 – assault & battery, 49345 S. I-94 Service
2311 – shots fired, 5825 Vernon

Friday, Feb. 17:

0059 – breaking & entering, 6096 Dellor
1121 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1139 – property damage accident, Belleville / Hidden Cove
1218 – property damage accident, 46425 Tyler
1221 – mental, 11010 Lighthouse Dr.
1232 – larceny, 48731 Denton
1400 – private property accident, Walmart
1433 – trespassing, 5 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1440 – property damage accident, Michigan / Denton
1508 – private property accident, 42350 Van Born
1643 – juvenile complaint, 45707 S. I-94 Service
1704 – fraud, 46425 Tyler
1727 – holdup alarm, 50778 Michigan Ave.
1859 – disturbance, 48621 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1817 – assault & battery, 10702 Oak Ln.
2157 – fraud, Meijer
2333 – fight, 49345 S. I-94 Service Dr.

Saturday, Feb. 18:

0202 – fight, 49345 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0255 – operating while intoxicated, 128 W. Spencer
0306 – assault & battery, 49 Maple
0334 – operating while intoxicated, WB I-94 / Haggerty
0404 – illegal entry, 44035 S. I-94 Service
0620 – assault & battery, 51219 Sylvia
0946 – malicious destruction of property, 2106 Westlake Cir.
0952 – malicious destruction of property, 45252 Sunrise Lane
0954 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville
1208 – property damage accident, Belleville / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1424 – fraud, Meijer
1551 – mental, 198 W. Spencer
1714 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48860 Denton

1724 – juvenile complaint, 46171 Village Green
2036 – juvenile complaint, 50935 W. Huron River
2047 – breaking & entering, 6104 Western St.
2109 – fraud, Meijer
2302 – assault & battery, 15851 Martinsville
2347 – operating while intoxicated, Michigan / Denton

Also on this week's log are 215 traffic stops, 47 of which were on the freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 12:

0811 – intrusion alarm, 562 Main
0905 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main
1128 – suspicious vehicle, 404 Main
1534 – assist fire dept., 3 San Carlos St.
1622 – suspicious person, High/Main
1726 – motorist assist, N. Liberty/Fifth
1926 – civil matter, 316 Edison
1953 – suicide or attempt, 237 Main
2026 – information, Main/Second
2240 – civil matter, 251 Henry

Monday, Feb. 13:

0608 – assault & battery, BHS
1048 – disorderly conduct, BHS
1105 – assist fire dept., 69 Menlo Park Dr.
1235 – property damage accident, Third/Main
1416 – assist fire dept., 229 Belle Villa
1824 – information, 6 Main
1847 – personal injury accident, Main/Huron River
2301 – family trouble, 4 Belle Villa Blvd.

Tuesday, Feb. 14:

0006 – warrant arrest, 6 Main
1048 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter, Co-Op apts.
1156 – all other traffic, Belle Plaza
1352 – juvenile complaint, 6 Main
1524 – fight, Belleville Mill

Wednesday, Feb. 15:

0204 – intrusion alarm, 123 S. Edgemont
0215 – warrant arrest, 6 Main
0932 – background investigation, 6 Main
1008 – assist fire dept., 57 Loza Lane
1051 – domestic assault, Third/Main
1719 – welfare check, 52 Loza lane
1919 – information, 565 E. Thornhill Ct.

Thursday, Feb. 16:

0258 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter, Co-op apts.
0742 – suspicious situation, Victorian/Oxford Ct.
1100 – vehicle lockout, 52 Loza Lane
1127 – suspicious person, 506 Harbour Pte. Dr.
1207 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court
1244 – background investigation, 6 Main
1310 – assist fire dept., BHS
1346 – animal complaint, 88 Carmell
1544 – background investigation, 6 Main
2012 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main
2146 – misc. complaint, 308 Oxford Ct.

Friday, Feb. 17:

0840 – P.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main
1124 – assist citizen, Hidden Cove
1138 – assist citizen, 45915 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1238 – property damage accident, 31 E. Huron River Dr.
1722 – misc. complaint, 193 W. Columbia Ave.
1918 – agency assist, 41525 Riggs
2117 – parking complaint, 593 E. Thornhill Ct.
2134 – suspicious vehicle, Village Park

Saturday, Feb. 18:

0036 – intrusion alarm, 883 Sumpter
0937 – property damage accident, Second/Main
1016 – intrusion alarm, South Middle School
1100 – intrusion alarm, South Middle School
1103 – warrant arrest, 6 Main
1519 – agency assist, 901 W. Huron River Dr.
1743 – parking complaint, 566 W. Thornhill Ct.
1749 – parking complaint, 351 Thornhill
1755 – misc. complaint, 370 E. Columbia Ave.
1838 – assist fire dept., 90 Carmell
1947 – suspicious vehicle, 554 N. Liberty
2026 – agency assist, 13290 Martinsville
2038 – property damage accident, Main/Huron River Dr.
2111 – information, 6 Main
2113 – suspicious situation, 206 Main

Also on this week's log are 27 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 12:

0825 – death investigation, 22000 bl. Karr
1243 – suspicious vehicle, 40000 bl. Wear
1708 – juvenile complaint, Stonecrest
2358 – breaking & entering report, Colorado

Monday, Feb. 13:

0359 – mental health commitment, Walnut
0620 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz/Sherwood

0735 – property damage accident, Judd/Wilnot
0808 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville/Judd
0809 – animal complaint, 21000 bl. Sumpter
0832 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Haggerty
1232 – civil dispute, 20000 bl. Haggerty
1805 – traffic hazard, 39000 bl. Willis
1933 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage
2025 – animal complaint, Hampshire
2136 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood
2358 – assist other agency, 8300 bl. Rawsonville

Tuesday, Feb. 14:

0204 – fire dept. assist, Tulip
0251 – property damage accident, Sherwood/Willis
1434 – larceny report, 46000 bl. Judd
1607 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Karr
1756 – well-being check, 20000 bl. Sumpter
1924 – accidental damage report, 21000 bl. Sherwood

2032 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter / Willow
2200 – property damage accident, Clark/S. Huron

Wednesday, Feb. 15:

0124 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Martinsville
0431 – warrant arrest, Judd/Clark
0644 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Haggerty

0711 – property damage accident, Clark/S. Huron
0927 – property damage accident, 40000 bl. Willis
1324 – larceny report, 47000 bl. Bemis
1359 – criminal sexual conduct investigation, 23000 bl. Sherwood

1630 – larceny report, 48000 bl. Bemis
1812 – threats complaint, Pecan
1816 – suspicious person, 44000 bl. Willow
1906 – assist other agency, 5900 bl. Rawsonville
2220 – suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Elwell

Thursday, Feb. 16:

0623 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Haggerty
0812 – alarm, 29000 bl. Sumpter
0853 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Willow
1017 – warrant arrest, Wayne Co. Jail
1154 – suspicious incident, Rustic Lane
1238 – ordinance violation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1249 – juvenile complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis
1401 – alarm, 47000 bl. Harris
1527 – trespassing complaint, New Mexico
1554 – ordinance violation, 44000 bl. Wear
1649 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Judd
1742 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willow
1826 – juvenile complaint, 51000 bl. Willis
1837 – assist other agency, 42000 bl. Willis
1840 – alarm, 41000 bl. Harris

Friday, Feb. 17:

0024 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear
1330 – harassment complaint, Timberlane
1656 – identity theft, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1726 – alarm, 24000 bl. Haggerty
1855 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos
1903 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Clay

Saturday, Feb. 18:

1116 – suspicious incident, Wyoming
1137 – suspicious vehicle, Holiday West
1605 – juvenile complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter
1752 – larceny report, Creekside
1909 – suspicious person, Wyoming

Also on this week's log are 10 citizen assists, 25 details, 136 patrol checks, 90 traffic stops, and 16 follow-up investigations.

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CLASSIFIED ADS**

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****Non-Auto Auction @ 10A.M.**

Featuring Dining Room Set, Power Tools,

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Full Drum Set. Over 200 items up for sale.

****Auto Auction @ 12:30 P.M. Featuring up to**

100 cars/trucks including '03 Trailblazer, '98

BMW M Series, '04 Olds Alero, '05 Toyota

Corolla, '03 Mustang and '99 Volkswagen

Beetle to name a few. We would also like to

announce that the Van Buren Township Po-

lice Dept. will have a Police Auction at our

facility for abandoned & unclaimed vehicles.

Preview sale items 48hrs before sale @

www.protechauction.com 13000 Haggerty,

Belleville, MI 48111 (800-497-7900)

**NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE**

**AT J&T CROVA TOWING
36573 GRANT RD., ROMULUS, MI
WED., FEB. 29, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**

Year	Make/Model	VIN
1992	Chevy Corsica	1G1LT53T7NY144671
2000	Chrysler Neon	1C3ES46C9YD865728
1996	GMC Jimmy	1GKDT13W2T2567676

Publish: February 23, 2012

**NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR
YPSILANTI POLICE DEPT.**

**AT J&T CROVA TOWING
287 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR.
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
WED., FEB. 29, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.**

Year	Make/Model	VIN
2002	Chevrolet Blazer	1GNDT13W2W2235406

Publish: February 23, 2012

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

MOVING SALE - Leather couch, \$100. Leather loveseat, \$100. 2 matching lamp's & tables, \$150. Kenmore washer, \$100. Electric range, \$100. Eureka vacuum, \$75 (used once). Everything must sell. (734) 635-8354 after 2 p.m. Cheryl 2/23

STEEL BUILDINGS SALE - Save THOUSANDS, Factory Direct, Discount Shipping. Ask about Clearance Buildings for Early Spring. 20x20, 20x30, More! Call Today (866) 670-3936 2/23

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WANTED: JUNK CARS

Running or Not. Top \$ Paid. Call For Free Pickup. Drive In For Extra Dollars.

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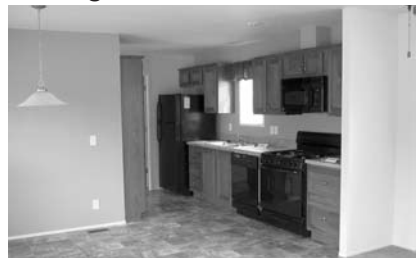
SILVER VERIZON FLIP PHONE on Sat. Feb. 18, 2012 around the Meadows Con-dominium complex. Small reward offered. (734) 260-6017 3/08

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JOURNEYMAN/ELECTRICIAN Needed. Commercial & Industrial experience required. (734) 645-2045 3/01

Keystone Academy sets
enrollment information
meeting for Monday

Keystone Academy will host an enrollment information meeting for prospective parents on at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27 at the school, 47925 Bemis Road in Sumpter Township.

Staff members will be on hand to present information about the school. The meeting will include an informal question-and-answer period.

Keystone Academy, founded in 2003, is a tuition-free, public charter school managed by National Heritage Academies that serves over 750 students in grades Young Fives and K-8.

For more information, visit www.KeystoneAcademy.org. To RSVP for the meeting, please call (734) 697-9470.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:47 pm by Supervisor Vawters showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm & P. Morgan. Excused absence Trustee Kennedy. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approx. 25 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments only on agenda items

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve regular board minutes of December 13, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants:

A. Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the warrants December 2011 thru today totaling \$1,414,251.49. Roll call vote: Yes: Vawters, Hoffman, J. Morgan, Bates, Hamm, & P. Morgan. Nay: None. Absent Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the warrants thru the end of January 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer: Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the water & sewer report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police/Ordinance: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by P. Morgan to approve the Police/Ordinance report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the building report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fire: Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the resignation of Christopher Brown and approve the fire report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurer: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the treasurers' report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Supervisor: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by P. Morgan to approve the attorneys' report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Attorney: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the amendments to the City of Detroit Water contract with a resolution to follow from the attorney also to approve the attorneys' report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Board Response

15. New Business:

A. Motion by J. Morgan, supported by P. Morgan to allow the Democrats to hold a caucus at the Community Center Gym on May 5, 2012 they are to pay \$200 fee with the \$100 deposit and the attorney is to write up language amending our policy to include caucus to be allowed. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hamm to discontinue the services of Metco and Giffels Webster Engineering Company's and go out for bids for new engineering company for Sumpter Township. They are to surrender all documents pertaining to Sumpter Township and mail a letter to them. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by J. Morgan, supported by P. Morgan to approve the deputy treasurer to attend Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Institute April 22 to April 27, 2012 cost not to exceed \$975.00. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve an agreement between Wayne County CDBG and Sumpter Township from July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by Bates, supported by Hamm to approve to purchase from Dubois cooper 3 sewer pumps and parts total \$10,941.00. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve for the supervisor and clerk to sign Smart contract for fiscal year 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve resolution 2012-01 Wayne County Road permits for road work for 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve to advertise for 2 part time employees for water department laborer. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Announcements

17. Open Floor

18. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to adjourn at 7:44 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on January 10, 2012 at 6:47 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act. Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Publish: 02-23-12

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Special Board Meeting Minutes January 25, 2012

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am by Supervisor Vawters showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan and Trustee Bates. Excused absence Trustee: P. Morgan, Kennedy & Hamm. Also present: Deputy Clerk Hurst and 6 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve to adopt FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) resolution 2012-02 for the National Flood Insurance Program. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve Ordinance 109 FEMA National Flood Insurance Program. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to hire Randy Lynch and Michael Petrowski as part time employees for the Sumpter Water & Sewer DPW department. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the final signed contract with Charter Township of Huron Dispatch services for Sumpter Township. 1 nay. Motion carried.

E. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve to pay the Cox arbitrators bill \$1,572.00. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Floor

5. Adjournment: Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to adjourn at 11:06 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Special Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on January 25, 2012 at 11:00 am at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act. Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
Publish: 02-23-12

February Birthdays

Feb. 4 – Kori Richmond

Feb. 15 – Mildred Richmond

Feb. 18 – Al Ostrowski

Feb. 29 – Mary Stiltner

Do you have a birthday in March? Does anyone you know have a March birthday? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING



The City of Belleville Board of Review will be held on the following dates:

**TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012**

Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. A second meeting will be on Tuesday March 13, 2012 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

Please call (734)697-9577 to set up an appointment.

The meetings will be held in the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Resident and non-resident taxpayers are permitted to file protests in writing without personal appearance. Letters must be received by March 13, 2012.

Lisa Long,
City Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: February 23, 2012
March 1, 2012



Sumpter Township Public Notice



WATER CONTRACTOR BID

Sumpter Township is compiling a list of qualified, licensed and insured underground contractors to repair broken water mains, repair fire hydrants, replace water stop boxed and make water taps and sewer repairs.

If interested please submit a quote listing hourly rates for repairs, water tap rates should be listed on a per tap basis listing sizes 1" through 2" and long and short tap rates.

For information regarding quote process, please contact Sumpter Township Clerks Office at (734) 461-6201 or the Water Superintendent at (734) 787-7244 by March 7, 2012.

Publish February 23, 2012



Sumpter Township Public Notice



SUMPTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REZONING

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter, Belleville, MI 48111 at 6:35 pm Thursday March 8, 2012, regarding the request for a Rezoning of land parcel summarized below:

NATURE OF REZONING REQUEST

The proposed Rezoning is to change the current zoning from R2 (Single Family) to C2 (Community Commercial) to allow a funeral home.

SITE LOCATION

The site upon which a Rezoning is being requested is located at 19865 Sumpter Road 81-038-01-0009-000, 0.51 acres.

This Public Hearing has been scheduled in accordance with the requirements of Public Act 637 of 1978 (amendments to the Township Rural Zoning Act. P.A. 184, 1943) to provide all interested citizens an opportunity to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss in detail all aspects of the proposed use.

For those unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk, Sumpter Township

Publish February 23, 2012

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERATOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES 2012

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be accepting sealed bids for a contract to perform maintenance on Township owned back-up power generators. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "GENERATOR MAINTENANCE BID" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. EDT Wednesday, April 4, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 a. m. on Wednesday April 4, 2012. Specifications may be obtained from the Clerk's Office during normal business hours or on the Van Buren Township website. (Note: If bid packets are downloaded from the website, please contact the Clerk's Office with contact information so that you can be notified of any addendums or changes to the specifications.) Bids will be accepted only on provided forms. The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. Published: February 23, 2012

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2012 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

- March 6, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(Organizational Meeting)
No Appeals Heard at this Meeting
- March 12, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- March 14, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- March 15, Thursday
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

REVIEW IN PERSON IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Taxpayers/Property Owners may appeal by making an appointment to appear before the Board of Review **OR** by letter appeal (personal appearance is not required).

Letters of appeal must be received on or before MARCH 16, 2012.

Appointments to appeal in person may be scheduled by calling the Assessing Office at 734-699-8946 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by MARCH 13, 2012.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: Thursday, February 16, 2012
Thursday, February 23, 2012
Thursday, March 1, 2012

School Board

(continued from page 1)

be able to provide better services to the students if they are concentrated in fewer schools. He said with under 200 students at Elwell, he wasn't able to provide the services as they should be.

Van Tassel said he has attended staff meetings at every school to present and explain the coming changes.

"People have appreciated the process," said Trustee Brent Mikulski. He said the number of community forums and public discussion is making the whole process more transparent.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Finished the update of the six-inch-thick policy manual and held the First Reading. Toth prepared sections on Procedural Authority, that removes reference to

Robert's Rules of Order, and a section on Voting, that spells out the procedure on votes. The second reading and adoption will be held at the March 12 meeting;

- Heard a presentation on a Carnegie Math program for middle school and high school students that Van Tassel wants to implement for use next fall. He pointed out the MEAP scores are "horrific", especially in math and the district needs a systematic approach. The three-year Carnegie program, which blends classroom and online teaching, will cost almost \$500,000. Van Tassel said the district is "light years behind" in teaching math and the teachers have not been given the tools they need. He outlined other procedures he is taking to improve math education in all the grades. "I expect you to fire me, get rid of me, if you don't like what's happening," Van Tassel said, urging the board to "put money where our mouth is"; and
- Learned an amended budget will also

be presented at the Feb. 27 meeting. Van Tassel said there could be ugly cuts again in the new budget, but he thinks the district could be out of deficit next fall. "If we blow redistricting and 100 kids leave us, we can't do it," he said of eliminating the deficit.


Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

Antique Appraisal Fair coming to Downtown Belleville on April 28

By Bob Mytych
Independent Special Writer

If you ever wondered how much that old antique toy, china bowl, or piece of jewelry you've been hanging on to is worth, gather those items and bring everything to the area's first Antique Appraisal Fair, coming April 28, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Grace Baptist Church Gymnasium.

Performing the appraisals is Chuck Schmidt of Schmidt's Antiques and Auctions, Oscar Zamora of Eagle Auction Service, and Doug Dalton Auctioneer of Belleville.

The cost will be \$10 for the first item and \$5 for every item after, with a limit of five items per visitor.

Proceeds will go to support Artaffair on Main, the Belleville Area Council for the Arts Juried Art and Antique Show scheduled for July 28-29 in Downtown Belleville.

Items for appraisal would include antique china, glassware, lamps, clocks, furniture

District Library

(continued from page 3)

Renaud asked if they knew the costs to date and Traskos said he would have a figure at the next meeting;

- Heard Green say a 2011 Projected Space Needs Update has been done by the architects and she would like to get Anders Dahlgren, the expert from the Library Planning Associates, in Minnesota to attend a future meeting or update the Space Needs Estimate remotely. Miller asked how much it would cost to get him to Belleville and Green said it would be airfare, hotel, meals and a \$1,200 per diem fee;

- Heard Boelter read a statement, saying a few members of the board had a meeting with the Mayor of Belleville about the impact of the library on the city, how much parking was required, the 30' height regulation, and what the city would do with the library building. He said the Mayor would have a reply soon. Then, Boelter complained about press coverage and an email that asked members of the business community to attend library board meetings to support keeping the library downtown. He said he would not answer any questions; and

- Heard Renaud say he was concerned about the board having no deadline for a decision. He asked if they had settled on a building in Sumpter and heard Gutierrez reply that they can't do that until they know where the main site will be. Renaud said Sumpter has to furnish a building, but board members said that wasn't true. Renaud insisted it was in the district library agreement. When Secretary Joy Cichewicz read portions of the district library agreement aloud, she surprised board members by reading, "... Sumpter Township shall provide property and building..."

(photos accepted), silver, quilts, vintage clothes, primitives, sports items, gins (unloaded please) fishing and hunting items, old signs, antique dolls and toys, old documents and autographed photos, costume and fine jewelry, paintings, prints,

statues, and more. No stamps or coins please.

Grace Baptist Church is located at 164 Roys Street.

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699-9020**

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

Notice of bid for Van Buren Public Schools – South Middle School Bid Package No. 01: General Trades / Food Service Equipment

The work includes construction of the renovated kitchen.

Bid documents are available via ftp at <https://docs.grangerconstruction.com>. User ID: bellevillebidder, Password: vanburen2009. These are case sensitive.

An optional pre-bid meeting will be held on February 28, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at South Middle School, 45201 Owen Street..

Bids must be received prior to 3:00 p.m. on March 8, 2012 according to the instructions in the project manual.

Bid security, in the form of bonds, must be submitted with all bids. EEO M/F/H/V. All bidders will be required to provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to accept other than a low bid, and to waive informalities, irregularities and/or errors in proposals.

Owner: Van Buren Public Schools. Construction Manager: Granger Construction of Lansing, MI. Architect: Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. of Novi, MI. For more information contract Granger Construction at 734-697-4624.

Publish: February 23, 2012



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Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, Feb. 23 – Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee, 11 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 27 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Belleville High School Auditorium
- Tuesday, Feb. 28 – Presidential Primary Election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 4 – Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., Veterans Memorial, Belleville
- Monday, March 5 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 6 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 7 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, VBT Public Safety Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8 – Sumpter Township Planning Commission, tentative, 6:30 p.m.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

"REBECCA"



Rebecca is a sweetheart through and through! Her gentle, calm personality is hard to resist and makes you want to love on her whenever she is near. Her gorgeous fluffy black coat is simply to die for and after seeing her now you would never believe she came to us almost completely bald from a flea allergy! **Rebecca** is a bit of a shy, more reserved cat and would probably do best in a forever home that was on the quieter, less active side. If she's not snuggled in a basket taking a cat nap or looking out one of the new cat patio windows at the birds you can often find her patiently waiting on top one of the cat stands to get loved on by visitors and volunteers alike. **Rebecca's** sweet nature just oozes out of her and is hard to miss so if you're looking for a pleasant, gentle-hearted beautiful fluffy female cat we are sure you'll be as taken by **Rebecca** as we are. She is spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Don't waste another day call and set up a time to meet **Rebecca** today! **734 461-9458**

Fire Chief

(continued from page 1)

personal effects immediately."

At about 4 p.m. on Friday, Grant reportedly turned over his fire chief's badge to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor. Reportedly, the locks were changed on the fire hall Friday night.



Grant

Attorney Combs had no immediate comment on the resignation, but Grant said only, "It's not over. There's more to come."

On Tuesday, City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said, "I don't have a clue what he's talking about, as far as 'improprieties and inappropriate actions'." She said there are none of those in the city that she knows of.

The Belleville Fire Chief position is part-time and pays \$8,000 a year. It is the only salaried position in the department, with the other fire fighters being paid per call.

Fire fighters get \$14 for the first hour they work and \$7 for the second hour and any hours thereafter. They receive \$5 per hour for the state-mandated training. For other events, they donate their time.

Mich. Court of Appeals considers local minister/penitent case

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

On Feb. 9, three Michigan Court of Appeals judges heard arguments on a local case having to do with whether it was legal for a pastor to go to police after a church member allegedly admitted to raping a nine-year-old girl.

There is no time limit on when the judges will make a decision, but the young man's lawyer Raymond Cassar predicted no matter how the judges rule, the case likely will be appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court.

The case has been reported by media throughout the United States because of the question for church members: Can what you confess to your pastor be used against you in a court of law?

Cassar said, "This is a very dangerous case because it could have very serious repercussions for religion. If a pastor is allowed to testify against a member of his church about privileged communications, no one will want to confess their sins."

In comments during the Appeals Court

hearing, a published report said the judges seemed to reject arguments by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Toni Odette that the privilege didn't apply because the teen's mother was present when he confessed and so his admission was not confidential.

The case involves Samuel D. Bragg, 19, who is accused of raping a girl during a sleepover at his home in 2007 when he was 15.

Bragg allegedly told the girl he would kill her if she ever told anyone. Two years later, after attending a church retreat about purity, the girl told her mother, who told the Rev. John Vaprezsán, pastor of Metro Baptist Church in Van Buren Township.

Both the girl's family and Bragg's family were members of the church.

Rev. Vaprezsán summoned Bragg and his mother, who was Vaprezsán's former secretary, to his office and confronted Bragg about the allegations.

After Bragg allegedly confessed, they prayed together and Vaprezsán told the girl's family. He gave a statement to VBT Police, and last March testified at a preliminary examination at 34th District Court in Romulus.

The pastor testified that his church doctrine didn't prevent him from talking to police and he felt obligated to do so.

Bragg and his mother say he didn't confess.

The district court judge bound Bragg over for trial on a charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, which carries a mandatory 25 years in prison up to a maximum penalty of life in prison.

But Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Gray Hathaway tossed out Vaprezsán's testimony, saying it violated Michigan's priest-penitent privilege. Her ruling was appealed and Bragg is free on bond.

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